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Agenda item 36
Question of Palestine

Participation of Palestine in the work of the United Nations

Note by the Secretary-General

The General Assembly, pursuant to paragraph 1 of its resolution 52/250 of 7 July 1998, decided to confer upon Palestine, in its capacity as observer, and as contained in the annex to the present resolution, additional rights and privileges of participation in the sessions and work of the General Assembly and the international conferences convened under the auspices of the Assembly or other organs of the United Nations, as well as in United Nations conferences. In paragraph 2 of the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to inform the Assembly, within the current session, on the implementation of the modalities annexed to the present resolution.

Based on the Secretary-General's understanding of resolution 52/250 and the annex thereto, the additional rights and privileges of participation of Palestine, in its capacity as observer, would be effected through the following modalities, without prejudice to the existing rights and privileges in the sessions and work of the General Assembly and the international conferences convened under its auspices; in the other organs of the United Nations; as well as in United Nations conferences:

"1. The right to participate in the general debate of the General Assembly."

Since the list of speakers for the general debate of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly was prepared prior to the adoption of resolution 52/250, Palestine was inscribed on the last day of the general debate of the fifty-third session. Henceforth, the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine will be invited to submit three preferences of date and meeting (morning or afternoon) from within the period of the general debate of a regular session of the General Assembly. If the General Assembly decides upon a different methodology of establishing the list of speakers for the general debate of a session, Palestine will have the right to participate in that methodology.

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"2. **Without prejudice to the priority of Member States, Palestine shall have the right of inscription on the list of speakers under agenda items other than Palestinian and Middle East issues at any plenary meeting of the General Assembly, after the last Member State inscribed on the list of that meeting.**"

In the plenary meetings of the General Assembly, the established practice concerning the inscription of Palestine on the list of speakers under agenda item "Question of Palestine" will continue. Under agenda items on Palestinian and Middle East issues, Palestine will be inscribed on the list of speakers in the order in which it signifies its desire to speak. Under agenda items other than Palestinian and Middle East issues, Palestine will have the right to be inscribed on the list of speakers at any meeting of the plenary after the last Member State inscribed on the list of that meeting.

"3. **The right of reply.**"

The presiding officer will accord the right of reply to Palestine in the order in which it signifies its desire to make a reply.

"4. **The right to raise points of order related to the proceedings on Palestinian and Middle East issues, provided that the right to raise such a point of order shall not include the right to challenge the decision of the presiding officer.**"

On matters related to the proceedings on agenda items concerning Palestinian and Middle East issues, Palestine may rise to a point of order, with the exception of a point of order made in connection with the actual conduct of voting. A point of order will be immediately decided by the presiding officer in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. Palestine may not appeal against the ruling of the presiding officer.

Palestine will not have the right to make procedural motions including the adjournment of debate, the closure of debate and the suspension or adjournment of the meeting.

"5. **The right to co-sponsor draft resolutions and decisions on Palestinian and Middle East issues. Such draft resolutions and decisions shall only be put to a vote upon request from a Member State.**"

Palestine will have the right to co-sponsor a draft resolution, draft decision or amendment under agenda items concerning Palestinian and Middle East issues but may not be the sole sponsor of such draft resolution, draft decision or amendment. Action will be taken on such draft resolution, draft decision or amendment upon request from a Member State.

"6. The right to make interventions, with a precursory explanation or the recall of relevant General Assembly resolutions being made only once by the President of the General Assembly at the start of each session of the Assembly."

At the beginning of each session of the General Assembly, during its consideration of the report of the General Committee, the President will indicate that Palestine's participation in that session will be in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/250 of 7 July 1998, after which there will be no precursory explanation prior to any intervention by Palestine in the session.

"7. Seating for Palestine shall be arranged immediately after non-Member States and before the other observers; and with the allocation of six seats in the General Assembly Hall."

Palestine will be seated after non-member States and before intergovernmental organizations. In the General Assembly Hall, Palestine will occupy three seats as well as the three seats immediately behind.

To reflect the new arrangements, the next edition of the *Permanent Missions to the United Nations*, the "Blue Book", will list Palestine under a new category III, "Entities having received a standing invitation to participate in the sessions and work of the General Assembly and maintaining permanent observer missions at Headquarters", immediately after category II, "Non-member States maintaining permanent observer missions at Headquarters". Category III, "Entities ...", will be followed by categories IV, "Intergovernmental organizations ...", V, "Other entities ...", and VI, "Specialized agencies and related organizations ...".

"8. Palestine shall not have the right to vote or to put forward candidates."

Palestine will not have the right to vote, including in elections. Palestine may neither submit its own candidacy for any election or appointment nor submit the names of candidates for any election or appointment.